

# **CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**February 14, 2002**

**Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Jill Schmidt, Commissioners Roger Kjos, Una McAlinden, Regina Riley, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Joe Adams, Cara Byrne, Kay Tarapolsi

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Commissioner Heidi Houghton; Youth Advocates Jamie Bakun, Jane Butterfield

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elizabeth Conner

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## **AGENDA**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:07 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Redmond Arts Commission minutes of January 10, 2002 were approved with the following amendment:

Page 6, No. 4, last paragraph, last line: Change to, "McAlinden reported that since August the project in total was running at an excess of \$60,000, including volunteer and staff time."

**Motion for approval of January 10, 2002 RAC minutes as amended by:**

Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Second by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

### **III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Action Items:

- E. Arts Education Advocacy

Discussion Items:

- F. Arts Funding Nexus

Under Reports:

- 4. Sidewalk Improvement Art Project

### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Perrigo Park Art Project Update**

Elizabeth Conner, artist, presented an update on the artwork for Perrigo Community Park. The permitting process has been slow. She has been investigating additional funding sources to add to the existing ones.

Ms. Conner reviewed the proposed design that would use the infrastructure of the park for various interpretive elements: the backstop, chain link fence, and columns placed at entry points (10 feet, possibly up to 14 feet tall). There could be safety issues that would determine the height of the columns. She showed a model of the column concept, with dimensional elements hanging by metal rods inside the chain link column. No maintenance would be needed on the inside elements; they would be constructed of either metal, or a concrete-type molded material with a glaze, giving more dimension.

Adams suggested having the top of the cylinders fan outward far enough to prevent people from climbing up and over to the top. Conner would like to consider this.

Skillingstead expressed concern with hands or objects poking through the chain link. Conner responded they could pull in the elements toward the center, or go to a 1-inch diameter link. Riley suggested having the smaller link at the bottom, progressing upward with a larger diameter link, which would lend to a textural look.

Conner listed the items that they are attempting to include in the construction budget: footings, structures, and up-lighting. The art budget would cover these: fabricating

objects, and attachments. No estimate has been made as yet for the whole project, due to the economic climate. The structures would be in the construction documents.

Conner reported that Bruce Dees, the architect for the project, is considering going out to bid within the next two months, yet that is still uncertain. Dees would like these structures to be an alternate to the overall bid. If bids come in low enough, their strategy is to pull all the structures into the document. If they are too high, they will have to decide what portion of the art budget to use for the structures. The fence items could be added later, too. Cost estimates on fabrication are now being gathered.

Commissioners praised Conner for her work. She stated that in another month she could possibly return with more information.

Conner asked Skillingstead if they could do a call for artists. Conner might check with the King County roster of artists. She would prefer local artists, primarily sculpting in clay. Commissioners suggested Kevin Pettelle or Lisa Sheets, both sculptor artists. Skillingstead proposed setting up an interview panel to meet with them, where Conner could explain the skills required. Conner welcomed the idea.

## **B. Arts in the Parks 2002 Recommendation**

Adams presented the proposed selections (in four categories) for Arts in the Parks 2002:

### *Music*

- Mojo Big Band
- Children of the Revolution
- Plena Libre
- Little Green Men
- Carrie Akre
- Rosie Thomas

### *Children*

- SecondStory Repertory (Sprouts)
- Tickle Tune
- Carter Family Marionettes
- Tears of Joy

### *Park-type Music*

- Navy Military Band
- Rainy Pass
- Washington Wind Symphony
- Northwest Sound
- Aloo Gobi

### *Theatre*

- Theatre Simple
- Wooden O Theatre

Commissioners suggested a few other ideas

- Indian performers (Tarapolsi will send Adams a contact name)
- Identical Harmony (other children's entertainment)
- Suffering Gaels (Irish performers, popularly received a few years ago)
- Redmond High School band, choir, and possibly the drama class (Schmidt will contact Youth Advocate Jane Butterfield regarding this)

Skillingstead asked Commissioners to consider a performer for the Redmond Arts Day in June, as well as the parade for Derby Days. Byrne proposed having SecondStory Repertory for the parade, where occasionally they would stop and perform a selected "short."

### **Motion for approval of the proposed selection as presented by Commissioner**

**Adams by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

Adams and the Performing Arts Committee will determine Arts in the Parks dates, and narrow the above list based on availability of the performers. Skillingstead announced that King County would be doing a ticketed, high-end performance series on Sunday nights at Marymoor Park. Also, Redmond Town Center would be holding a series of performances on Sunday afternoons. She cautioned scheduling Arts in the Parks performances in conflict with these, as well as WOMAD (if it is held).

## **C. RAC Nominations**

Schmidt announced the 2001 Chair and Vice Chair positions would end in March 2002. Nominations were opened for these leadership positions for 2002.

**Nomination of Jill Schmidt for RAC Chair by:** Commissioner Adams

**Second by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

**Nomination of Una McAlinden for RAC Vice Chair by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Adams

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

There were no further nominations. Schmidt and McAlinden accepted the nominations.

**Motion to close the nominations by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie  
**Second by:** Commissioner Byrne  
**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous.

**All voted in favor for Schmidt and McAlinden to serve another year's term beginning in March 2002.**

Schmidt expressed thanks to Commissioner Kjos, who would be leaving the Commission in March, for all his contribution to the Arts Commission over the years. She commended all Commissioners for their hard work and efforts on projects in 2001. She also thanked the recording secretary for her abilities in composing the minutes each month.

#### **D. Arts Awards Artist Selection**

Skillingstead contacted four different artists to be considered as the artist for the Redmond Arts Awards. She received a response from only one, Kevin Pettelle, and was pleased to recommend him as the artist of choice to create the awards. She showed Commissioners the portfolio of his works depicting tiles of animals, etc. She suggested he could cast four tiles (something to be hung on a wall) as a limited edition. Commissioners enthusiastically supported the idea. Skillingstead will invite him to come to next month's meeting to do a presentation of what he would create. Tarapolsi suggested tiles of only hands, possibly depicting creating art; McAlinden suggested also tiles of feet, showing dance and performance. Skillingstead will pass the suggestions on to Mr. Pettelle.

**Motion for approval of Kevin Pettelle as the artist selected for the Redmond Arts Awards by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi  
**Second by:** Commissioner Byrne  
**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

#### **E. Arts Education Advocacy**

Schmidt reported that she, McAlinden, and Skillingstead attended the Washington State Art Commission's (WSAC) Arts Day afternoon session, which began with the importance of advocacy and relationship-building. Following this were opportunities for Commissioners to share how the WSAC grant had contributed to their programs. McAlinden's speech on the arts curriculum lesson book inspired others, including the Program Supervisor for the Arts, and the other arts commissioners attending. They later inquired about the project and desired to know more information. It was a very productive advocacy focus that generated favor toward grant awards for RAC. Each RAC Commissioner was supportive of attending the full day of the WSAC Arts Day next year. Skillingstead suggested joining a carpool that travel there for the day.

The Washington Art Education Association's statewide Elementary Art Forum is coming up in March, and would also provide opportunity for attendees to share their projects. This forum would provide very good RAC visibility to help the curriculum project grow and to help with funding. Schmidt suggested sending a RAC group to take one of the curriculum lessons, which would be presented and discussed. The Forum is March 9, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Bainbridge Island, and costs \$15/person. Schmidt requested Commissioners approve funding the trip and attendance costs.

**A consensus was made to fund the trip and attendance of Commissioners Byrne, McAlinden, Schmidt, along with Karen Brandon and Melna Skillingstead, to the Elementary Art Forum, March 9, 2002.**

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Annual Report**

Schmidt showed an updated revision of the Annual Report design, complete with text, for review. She asked Commissioners to read each section, including their own, and e-mail her with comments as soon as possible (no later than next Thursday). The report must be finalized, printed, and ready for distribution by April. Skillingstead will provide Schmidt with the statistical information.

Schmidt asked Commissioners to consider whether or not the Arts Funding/Nexus Committee would need a section in the Annual Report. She noted the committee does not spend money, and therefore does not affect the community directly. Riley agreed with Schmidt (and Houghton), stating it is an internal committee and has no direct bearing to the community. Tarapolsi suggested introducing it somehow in order to let the community know it exists on the behalf of the internal working of the Commission. Schmidt responded that by doing so could generate adverse feedback; it could be confusing to the community (no ad hoc committees are typically mentioned). McAlinden emphasized it serves other report committees.

Schmidt would remove it and put a picture in its place. Commissioners concurred to do so.

### **B. Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit**

Schmidt reported they have received no response from the call for curators. Consequently, Tarapolsi has suggested organizing a committee (to keep it internal) to curate the exhibit, and she volunteered to act as chair. She has already looked at the files and artists, and has come up with 126 artists, 45 that have previously shown their works in the City. She plans to make a call to artists via postcards to see if any of them are interested in showing in 2002-03.

The timeframe is September (or end of August) to have the exhibit in place; however, if artists would like to display this summer, they would also be welcomed (this would avoid a gap between March and September). An effort will be made to identify the artists sooner, so as to have the brochure timed with the school year calendar.

Kjos believed the project, chaired by Tarapolsi, should be an action item. Schmidt responded that it is a rough plan; in the long term, it is not known if a Commissioner following Tarapolsi would be able to continue as a curator. This could be an interim position until that is determined. She went on to explain that Tarapolsi will track her hours to see how much time it takes to put together the exhibit. It would become a “research” project to set up a protocol/format to see if it could be passed on to another person, once the foundation and database are in place. Skillingstead, in support of keeping the program going, has established an office for Tarapolsi, including a separate phone line for artists to call her. An assessment would be done midway, or toward the end of the process.

It was recommended to take money that would have gone toward hiring a curator and apply it toward larger honorariums. Skillingstead noted there would also be potential installation fees, and a need to provide a cushion for unexpected costs. They would be able to have 12 artists, using the library space as well as the art mound on the municipal campus.

Tarapolsi, Schmidt, and Skillingstead will strategize a plan for the process. Kjos asked them to consider the drawbacks, expenses, and tasks the job would take, as well as what they would require the other Commissioners to do.

McAlinden suggested contacting Bellevue’s Mary Pat Byrne for ideas. Skillingstead noted that Bellevue relies on their parks department for installation, which is done every other year. A criteria list would be put together, which would include installation plans from the artists.

Schmidt will bring a strategy to RAC next month for their consideration. Commissioners commended Tarapolsi for volunteering to head up the exhibit and expressed their support.

### **C. Performance Information**

Schmidt reported that a few comments were received by the public that they did not know ahead of time that the Seattle Men’s Chorus were a gay group. These citizens would like to have been informed, as they may not have brought their children. Schmidt believed the Arts Commission owes the community that information.

Skillingstead suggested asking the performance groups to give an age-appropriate rating to their performances. McAlinden requested Adams give Commissioners

complete information about groups when presenting them at the time of RAC approval.

#### **D. Mailing List**

Skillingstead reported that the City's Information Services Division is constructing a new database for an artist mailing list. The program would provide the contact name(s), organization, address/phone/e-mail, etc., as well as check options of items the contact would like to receive. Skillingstead asked Commissioners how they would like the list sorted: whether or not they want a general mailing, or keep it as target mailings only.

The objective of the new database is to do target mailings even more effectively. Riley supported the idea to be as versatile as possible. Skillingstead added that the new system would have an overall heading to identify each category. It would have the capability to combine categories, and provide more capabilities to sort out (e.g. King County Arts Commission, etc.).

Skillingstead clarified that anyone who is on the mailing list has already filled out the form and submitted it. She would like to be able to identify selected groups, for example from a media list, or a list of schools, to send information.

#### **E. 2002 Extended Agenda**

Commissioners briefly reviewed the extended RAC agenda for 2002. Riley asked to include the Organizational Support Grants in the November discussion, and in December, the Arts Education Grant. Skillingstead will forward this agenda to the City's calendar so the Arts Commission is included.

#### **F. Arts Funding/Nexus Committee**

Riley reported on the outcome of suggestions and ideas discussed by Schmidt with Mayor Ives:

- Per capita increase: Mayor did not want to commit to an increased number.
- A one-time increase: A specific lump sum was suggested (e.g., in regard to staff salary).
- Increase the 1% for art for capital projects: Mayor declined support of the increase because integrating arts into Public Works projects is already evolving and is working well. They would be handled as they emerge on a case-by-case basis with Public Works.

Ongoing art funding discussions would continue in the future.



Riley distributed a handout listing the Nexus Committee's schedule of events. Riley and Houghton are scheduled to meet with staff on March 1 to discuss the budget and to assist in the upcoming year's budget process.

Skillingstead announced that King County's sustained support grant would either no longer be available, or would be reduced. She explained that the King County Arts Commission (KCAC) is looking at restructuring how they do business. They may possibly break away from the County government and become a Public Developing Authority to oversee the expenditures of the hotel/motel funds for the arts. Therefore, money would no longer be coming from the King County general fund budget. This would impact the sustained support money, which is now paid through the general fund. KCAC is also setting aside funds for an endowment for after the sunset of the hotel/motel arts fund in 2012.

Schmidt emphasized that the Nexus Committee is a research committee to bring ideas to the RAC. McAlinden observed that the Nexus Committee was on the agenda as a discussion item (not a report) of what steps have been taken. She expressed concern that many decisions were made without reporting back to the Commissioners. She believed the committee formation should have been presented to all Commissioners as an action item to consider the direction. Riley explained the need for RAC to have a group working within the Commission to help manage and direct it as a whole. McAlinden strongly emphasized that the committee must not be a report, but rather, a discussion item presented by the committee for the Commission to consider. She asked that it be noted for the record that it would have been better generated in a general meeting.

Riley reviewed the schedule of events with Commissioners.

Skillingstead asked Commissioners to invite their City Council persons via e-mail to the reception on Saturday, February 23, at 6:00 p.m. Following this, an invitation to their individual coffee meeting would be appropriate. Commissioners were asked to make their contact between the reception and the May City Council meeting. They may make their contact before the reception if they feel comfortable to do so. Kjos volunteered to contact each Commissioner to ensure the invitations have been made to the reception. Riley mentioned that these meetings were informational only, in order to establish relationships between Council and Commissioners.

It was decided that the March 1 meeting would be postponed, due to the City Council joint meeting not being held until May. Skillingstead noted Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, would be leading the joint meeting agenda.

March 6 is the next Nexus meeting, and any Commissioner may attend.

## **VII. REPORTS**

### **A. Arts Commissioner/Committees**

#### **1. Chair and Vice Chair**

None

#### **2. Visual Arts**

Schmidt reported that the next Visual Arts meeting would cover the following:

- a. Leary Way Mural (Skillingstead is talking with King County regarding this project)
- b. City rotating art collection
- c. Goals exclusive to the Visual Arts Committee
- d. Fire station artist selection for percent for art fire station project

#### **3. Literary Arts**

LaBrunerie reported that the *Write Out Loud!* coordination is progressing smoothly, with updates sent out regularly. Skillingstead reported that she has processed their payment so they are able to cut their own checks: This will free up Skillingstead's time considerably. She added *WOL!* has formed a good committee, and they would be doing similar activities as last year (minus the poetry truck). However, instead of a closing reception, they would be holding an opening event on April 20 at the Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. The keynote speaker is writer Connie Willis. Tickets would be sold at the door.

#### **4. Arts Education**

McAlinden distributed photos from the January 16 teacher training for the art curriculum project. She reported a full turnout, and very positive evaluations were given.

The Committee is in the process of grant writing. McAlinden has met with Charlie Rathbun, King County Acting Director of the Office of Cultural Resources, and he is very pleased with what they have done in the project. She will submit a proposal to speak state wide as a presenter at the State Education Conference.

Elizabeth Umbanhowar, Kirkland Arts Center, will submit a grant application to support/coordinate the curriculum training next year at the Kirkland Arts Center.

The training would occur in their arts studio. The school district, by involving other arts agencies/community bodies such as this, is taking the program a step further, and thereby sustaining credibility of RAC's work.

McAlinden referenced the *Redmond Reporter* article, highlighting the curriculum project, specifically the successful teacher training. She will send this article along with their grant applications.

McAlinden asked for RAC help with marketing. The Committee does not have materials to leave with potential contacts, or in relationship-building opportunities, e.g., press packages, letters, etc. Byrne stated they are looking to include articles, press releases, and lesson books they can send to such government officials as Patti Murray, Laura Ruderman, and others.

## **5. Grants**

Riley announced the Arts Education Grant deadline is April 26. Skillingstead has updated the date on the City's web site, along with including the application.

## **6. Performing Arts**

Adams invited Commissioners to the next Winter Performance Series on February 23, featuring Bottom Line Duo.

## **7. Arts Funding**

None

## **8. Youth Advocate**

Schmidt reported that Jamie Bakun (working with Schmidt) has contributed her ideas to the Annual Report.

## **9. Marketing**

LaBrunerie reported they would begin filming the art around the City next month, with commentary by Commissioner Adams.

## **B. Staff Reports**

Skillingstead reported on the following:

## **1. Volunteer Arts Awards**

A nomination form for the Volunteer Arts Awards was included in the back of Commissioners' packets, and also on the City's web site. An article was published in the *Redmond Reporter*, advertising for nominees. Commissioners were asked to seek out nominees, fill out the form, and submit it to her for arts awards recipients.

## **2. Update on Theatre Schmeater**

Theatre Schmeater would still do their March 23 performance, in spite of losing some regular performers and adding new ones to their show.

## **3. Council Reception – February 23, 2002, 6:00 p.m.**

See VI.F.

## **4. Sidewalk Improvement Art Project**

The City would like to construct a sidewalk speed bump at the cross street of NE 100<sup>th</sup> and 169<sup>th</sup> near the new Junior High School. Lisa Singer, Project Manager for the City who is working on this project, would like an artist to assist with integrating art into the project. Skillingstead has asked her to do a presentation to RAC as the project is developed to keep them informed.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by:** Commissioner Adams

**Second by:** Commissioner Riley

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary: Pamela K. Maybee, *Call A Typist*

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:**

**March 14, 2002**

**Old Redmond School House Community Center**

**7:00 p.m.**

# Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: February 14, 2002

## Audience Present

*Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.*

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Elizabeth Conner	20419 81 <sup>st</sup> Ave SW Vashon, WA	206-463-5346